

Attorney's Docket: 2002DE429
Serial No.: 10/525,151
Art Unit: 1796
Response to Office Action, Dated 11/13/2007

Remarks

The Office Action mailed November 13, 2007 has been carefully considered together with each of the references cited therein. The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. Reconsideration of the present Application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended the Specification and the claims to more clearly recite what Applicant believes to be the invention. The Specification at page 3, lines 8-10, line 27 and in Claim 1 and Claim 2 were amended to replace the symbol "C" in formula (1) with the symbol $-R^5-$ as requested by the examiner to avoid misinterpretation as a carbon atom instead of the denoted acid group or hydrogen atom. Claims 1 and 2 were further amended to recite that the copolymer is a block copolymer and the variables y, k, m, R₂, R₄, and (y+n) were amended to reflect a block copolymer structure. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in Applicant's Specification on page 4, lines 1 to 20. It is believed that no new matter is introduced by this amendment and no additional search is required.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 61-134335. The rejection of claim 1 as amended under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 61-134335 should be withdrawn for the reason that the Japanese reference teaches away from Applicant's invention. The Japanese patent discloses an alkylene oxide adduct prepared by reacting an active hydrogen-containing compound (A) such as allyl alcohol and an alkylene oxide, such as ethylene oxide or phenyl glycidyl ether, in the presence of a catalyst comprising Ba hydroxide or Sr hydroxide. The Japanese reference differs from Applicant's compound as follows:

- 1) The Japanese reference does not teach or suggest that both ethylene oxide and a phenyl glycidyl ether are added to the allyl alcohol, and
- 2) The Japanese reference only discloses that a compound which has an active hydrogen is reacted with the allyl alcohol, and there is no disclosure or suggestion to one skilled in the art to

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react at least two compounds having an active hydrogen site,
and

- 3) There is no requirement or suggestion in the Japanese patent that the copolymer produced by the reaction be a block copolymer as claimed by the Applicant.

Therefore, the rejection of claim 1, as amended under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 61-134335 for the reason that the Japanese reference teaches away from Applicant's invention and no one skilled in the art would be able to arrive at Applicant's invention armed solely with the disclosure of the Japanese Patent.

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above remarks, the objections to the specification and the claims, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn and that this application is in a condition for an allowance of all pending claims. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and an allowance of all pending claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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